**Reservation in educational activities**

1348. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the apex court has struck down reservations in educational, activities, made on the basis of religion;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government proposes to issue any directions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCS DEVELPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As the Central Government has not provided reservation in educational facilities on the basis of religion, the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) State legislatures are competent to make reservations in educational facilities for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes under Article 15(4) and Article 15(5) of the Constitution, the question of directions to State Government from the Central Government does not arise.

**Manpower shortage in construction industry**

1349. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the acute shortage of manpower in the construction industry;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up institutes to train people, to enable them to work in the construction industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) No centralized database on shortage of manpower in the construction industry is maintained in the Ministry. However the Government has taken the following measures for training and enhancing the skill level of workers including those of the construction sector.

(0 Upgradation of 500 existing ITIs for providing highly skilled labour force.

(ii) Establishment of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs in the North-Eastern States, Sikkim and J&K.

(iii) Training, testing and certification of the skills of labour force including construction workers under the scheme of skill development initiatives.

This is expected to augment skilled development of workers including those of the construction sector.